

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY 28, 1962

UPI-61

(POWERS)

WASHINGTON--U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS MAY TELL HIS STORY TO THE WORLD THIS SATURDAY UNLESS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES INVOKE THEIR PRIORITY TO QUESTION HIM FIRST, HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED TODAY.

THESE OFFICIALS DESCRIBED POWERS AS A "FREE AGENT" NOW THAT HIS INTERROGATION IS COMPLETED. THEY SAID "HE CAN WALK OUT OF WHERE HE IS TODAY, BUT HE HAS NO CHOSEN TO DO SO."

THEY SAID IT WAS UP TO HIM WHETHER HE WOULD HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE. BUT THEY ADDED THAT THEY WOULD SUGGEST TO POWERS THAT HE DO SO SATURDAY IF HE DOES NOT APPEAR BEFORE CONGRESS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

A SPECIAL BOARD OF INQUIRY WHICH HAS BEEN QUESTIONING POWERS ABOUT HIS ILL-FATED FLIGHT OVER RUSSIA ON MAY 1, 1960, HAS DELIVERED A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS TO CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE.

MCCONE IS TO APPEAR BEFORE A SPECIAL SENATE WATCHDOG SUBCOMMITTEE TOMORROW. HE SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE INTERROGATION REPORT. IN ADDITION, MCCONE ALSO WILL APPEAR TOMORROW AND FRIDAY BEFORE OTHER SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES.

GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THAT WHEN MCCONE COMPLETES HIS TESTIMONY, THE COMMITTEES ARE EXPECTED TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT TO HEAR FROM POWERS DIRECTLY.

UPI-61

UPI-71

ADD L. POWERS, WASHINGTON (UPI-61)

SHOULD ONE OR MORE OF THE COMMITTEES WANT TO TALK WITH THE PILOT, THIS WOULD DELAY ANY NEWS CONFERENCE WITH HIM UNTIL SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.

THERE WERE WIDESPREAD REPORTS TODAY THAT THE INQUIRY BOARD HEADED BY RETIRED FEDERAL APPEALS COURT JUDGE. BARRETT PRETTYMAN, HAD FOUND THAT POWERS CONDUCTED HIMSELF ACCEPTABLY IN RUSSIA UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

UPI-61